



Alaska Interagency
Coordination Center



Morning Highlights

July 23, 2009
Morning Highlights 2009-38
Time: 11:00 am

Contact:
Public Affairs (907) 356-5511
Report Fires: (800) 237-3633

Wildland Fire Update

Four new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Wednesday. The **Tagagawik River Fire** and the **Continental Fire** were both lighting caused fires located in the Galena Zone, limited management option. The fires were 350 and 300 acres respectively and both are being monitored. The **Berm Road #2 Fire** was reported in the Delta Area as a human caused fire. Several large bales of hay were burning and due to red flag conditions, a type 3 engine, a type 7 engine, two water tenders, and several squads of Hotshots were dispatched to extinguish the fire. The **Poodle Fire** was reported in the Fairbanks Area burning in grass and black spruce off Poodle Lane. Several DOF engines responded and contained the fire.

As of 9 am Thursday, the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center had tallied 437 fires and **1,306,822.7** acres burned this year. 12 fires are staffed (or will be soon) and 69 fires are active across Alaska. At this time last year, 326 fires had burned 79,319.1 acres.

Fire Growth Widespread: The Wood River 1 Fire about 27 miles south of Fairbanks grew from 16,000 acres to 29,039.8 acres and the Minto Flats South Fire near Nenana grew to 244,718 acres due to dry conditions and high winds. Southerly winds blew smoke into Fairbanks and other interior communities. The Sheenjek Fire northeast of Ft. Yukon grew from 34,495 acres to 45,397 acres and Bear Creek grew from 37,713 acres to 39,713 acres. Weather conditions are generally expected to remain warm and dry across interior Alaska into next week. Isolated thunderstorms are expected across a portion of northern interior.

Some fires such as the Broken Snowshoe Fire (25,345 acres) near McGrath and the Zitziana Fire (89,426 acres) west of Nenana have become more active and are re-burning in some areas due to warm temperatures, low humidities and dry fuel conditions. Both fires have been re-staffed with firefighters to protect structures in the respective areas.

For updated information about the Railbelt Complex fires which includes the Minto Flats South Fire, Lunch Lake Fire and the June Creek Fire, call the new Fire Information Office at **907-378-3843**. The Type 3 Incident Management Team (IMT) assumed control of the fire at 0700 Thursday. The new Incident Command Post is located at the Nenana Airport. Many members of the Type 2 IMT will also be part of the Type 3 IMT to maintain continuity. Additional information about the fire is being posted at: www.inciweb.org.

For updated information about the Shanta Creek fire, contact the Kenai Refuge at 907-262-7021 or the Alaska Division of Forestry at 907-260-4262. A Type 3 organization has assumed operational control of the fire and fire resources are being demobilized as the fire comes under containment. Fire information is posted at www.inciweb.org and <http://kenai.fws.gov>. Email can be addressed to r7shanta@fws.gov.

For updated information about the Chakina Fire, call the Fire Information Office at 907-529-0511 or send email to: ChakinaFireInfo@gmail.com. Fire information is also posted at www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm

News releases and additional information about these fires are posted under Current News at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov>

Red Flag Warning is in effect from 10 am until 10 pm Thursday for strong winds in the Deltana and Tanana Flats. Specific information about the Red Flag Warnings and weather can be found at: <http://afshome/predsvcs/weather.php>

Staffed Fires

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
<i>Railbelt Complex</i>			Type 3 Incident Mgt. Team
			Pilot Station
Fires in Complex			250 personnel in Complex
Minto Flats South	12 mi west of Nenana	244,718 acres	
Lunch Lake	20 mi. NW of Nenana	8,339 acres	
June Creek	21 miles NW of Healy	164 acres	
Other Fires			
Rock Slough	50 mi. NE of Ft. Yukon	24,000 acres	114 personnel
			Beaver/Stevens Village
			Type 2 crew
			Allakaket #2 Type 2 crew
			North Star Type 2 crew
			St. Michaels Type 2 crew
Little Black One	18 mi. NE of Circle	161,007.8 acres	57 personnel
			Venetie #2 Type 2 crew
			Midnight Sun Hotshots
Muskeg Creek	92 mi. SW of McGrath	44 acres	30 personnel
			Yukon Type 2IA crew

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
Zitziana	53 mi. W of Anderson	89,426.3 acres	26 personnel
Chakina	13 mi. S of McCarthy	32,000 acres	108 personnel
			Augusta Hotshots
			Pioneer Peak Hotshots
Shanta Creek	Off Funny River Road	13,221 acres	42 personnel ordered
	Kenai		Type 3 IMT
			Denali Type 21A
Wood River 1	27 mi. S of Fairbanks	29,039.8 acres	3 personnel
Broken Snowshoe	3 mi. N of McGrath	25,345 acres	17 personnel
			Nikolai Type 2 crew
Sheenjek	46 mi. NE of Ft. Yukon	45,397.1 acres	21 personnel
			Ft. Yukon #3 Type 2 crew
Big Creek	60 mi. SW of Ft. Yukon	5,550 acres	8 personnel
Bear Creek	58 mi. W of Healy	39,713 acres	36 personnel

Air Quality information for the Fairbanks North Star Borough is posted at:
<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>. For July 23 at 11 am, the air quality was reported as moderate due to smoke from wildland fires.

To learn about protecting yourself from smoke, visit:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>

For daily fire information, please visit:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf> and for a map of fire locations, click on "Fire Information" at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>

Additional References

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>

- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Maggie Rogers (Alaska Division of Forestry) and Doug Stockdale (BLM Alaska Fire Service).

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